

## Head-lines

Welcome to this half term's edition of the St Joseph's News - a half termly round up of what has been happening in school this half term and some upcoming events. The first half term after Christmas can be quite a difficult one - the decorations are down, the magic of Christmas gone, dark mornings, cold weather, rain, snow! So as February gets bedded in and I look up to see blue sky and the first few shoots of flowers, I am filled with a renewed sense of excitement. I wish you all a lovely half term. And pancake day is only 20 days away!

Mr Turner

## A Royal Visit

I am sure you are all aware of the VVIPs we welcomed to Birkenhead earlier this term. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Harry and Meghan, came to visit Birkenhead to see some of the amazing things going on in our town. As part of their visit, they met with groups of school children. Mrs Bertram and Mrs Corr took our Year 6 Prefects to represent St Joseph's. The children had an unforgettable morning as both Harry and Meghan spent a lot of time interacting and talking with them. One particular conversation has really captured the imagination of the country - Meghan asked one of our pupils, Maddison, what she would like to be when she grows up. Without hesitation, Maddison explained how she would like to follow in her mum's footsteps and be a mental health nurse as this is such a vital yet underfunded area. She is determined to dedicate her future career to helping people with their own mental health and well being.

Meghan was really impressed by the determination and valuable ambition and so took Maddison to talk with Harry - hence the picture to the right! This image has really captured the imagination of the sector and future plans are now in development to work with our school to continue to build the profile and awareness of mental health, particularly in young people. I met with Avril Devaney MBE (Director of Nursing and Therapies) who explained that Maddison has achieved more in one conversation and picture than she has done in all her career of trying to raise the profile of the importance of mental health! Avril's goal is to "make it ordinary to talk about mental health" and help and support people to recognise how to promote good mental health and wellbeing. Maddison and her classmates have been invited to open the newly refurbished wing of the



Children's Mental Health Service Centre at St Catherine's.

Thank you to all our Prefects for representing our school so well, and a special thank you to Maddison for raising the profile. We will continue to work in partnership with the services to help all our children stay well and healthy in all aspects of their lives.



# Snow business.....

Temperatures may have plummeted, but our spirits remained high as we took the children out to play on the fresh snow earlier in January.

Pictured - a targeted snowball artillery attack on Mr Nayland. Clearly the study of military tactics during the Ancient Rome topic paid off!



## Parent App

Apologies once again for the 'false start', but our new Parent App system is now live. You should have received a text message invitation with a personal code to get set up - please do come and speak to the office if you have any difficulties setting up your account and Max and Angie can assist. At the time of writing this newsletter, the system is showing quite a number of invited users who have not yet set up. Please can we encourage you to use this system as it will be a primary account for communication and information, and will allow us to go increasingly paperless for consent forms, letters, dates etc.- better for the environment as well as our finances! So please do download and start using the app.

## School Council

Last week we held the elections for our new school council. Many thanks to all who put themselves forward - I know there were lots of great campaigns and ideas. The votes are in and I am pleased to announce our new Council members - Ella, Imogen, Lex, Olivia, Dylan, Ashley, Hannah, Gabriela, Ruby and Finn. I look forward to meeting and working with our School Council as they represent and bring forward the voices of all of our pupils.

## Sporting Success

Congratulations to Rosa and Isabelle who competed and placed in the top three of the National WMO Championships. Their success at National Level has earned them a place at World Level where they will be representing England at the WMO World Championship 2019. Well done girls!



## Thought for the term

*Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who suffer from worry, anxiety and all aspects of mental health. Let us remember the words of Pope John Paul II "Remember that you are never alone. Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives"*